(b) whether Government have taken steps to set up a commission to study the effects of GMCs and also to have a look at Mashelkar Committee's report which hasn't touched the core issue of GMCs;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government are planning to amend the Patent Act to prevent patenting of GMCs and thereby prevent the opening of flood gates of GM products in India; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) No, Sir. The Government has no plan to put a moratorium on the release of any GM crop in India.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. The Government has not taken any steps to set up a Commission to study the effects of GMCs or to have a look at Mashelkar Committee report which has carefully considered the core issue of GMCs pertaining to the pharma sector. The recommendations of the Mashelkar Committee have been implemented by the Government in April 2006.

(d) and (e) No, Sir. The Government has no plan to amend the Patent Act to prevent the opening of flood gates of GM products in India.

"Rising level of mercury"

2783. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the mercury level in the country is rising alarmingly;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have any policy in place to check the rising mercury level;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken to check rising level of mercury?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) All India

observed mean annual temperature has shown a warming trend of 0.05° C/decade during the period 1901-2003 and relatively higher warming of 0.22° C/decade during 1971-2003.

(c) to (e) India is engaged in the International Climate Change Regime, including the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and its Kyoto Protocol, as also various partnerships with other countries under the UNFCCC. While India does not have any Green House Gases (GHG) abatement commitments under the Kyoto Protocol, nevertheless a range of policies and programmes help mitigate climate change. These include:

(1) Improving energy efficiency & conservation as well setting up of Bureau of Energy Efficiency
(2) Power sector reforms
(3) Promoting hydro and renewable energy
(4) Promotion of clean and technologies
(5) Coal washing & efficient utilization of coal
(6) Afforestaion and conservation of forests
(7) Reduction of gas flaring
(8) Use of cleaner and lesser carbon intensive fuel for transport
(9) Encouraging Mass Rapid Transport system
(10) Environmental quality management

U.N. report on environment

†2784. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards the report on environment published by U.N. recently, in which it is mentioned that the environment of Himalaya and Sundervan is getting polluted alongwith the other places of the world;

(b) if so, the facts in this report;

(c) whether in order to avoid this situation perference would be given to the schemes relating to the protection of environment against pollution; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.